

Approved Meeting Minutes

Middle School Building Committee Meeting

April 14, 2014 – 8:15 am

BOE Conference Room, 3rd Floor Annex Building

5 Linsley Street, North Haven, CT

Committee Members in Attendance:

Goldie Adele, Miriam Brody , Michael Brandt, Lou Coppola, Sr., Gary Johns (committee chairman), David Mikos, Bruce Morris , Walter Nester, Jr., Joseph Porto, Michelle Spader (committee secretary), Dyann Vissicchio (committee vice-chair)

Absent: None

Others in Attendance: Anita Anderson, BOE Chair, Dr. Robert Cronin, Phil Diana, Attorney Jeff Donofrio, Todd Petronio, Phil Piazza, Tom Tavella , Graham Curtis and Shay Atluru of DTC

Meeting called to order by Chairman Johns at 8:15 am.

Motion made by Bruce Morris to approve the meeting minutes from the April 7, 2014 meeting. It was seconded by Goldie Adele and unanimously passed.

Old Business:

BL Companies was selected to perform pre-referendum environmental testing. A kick-off meeting was being held at 2:30 pm today in order to get started with the testing.

Presentations by Perkins Eastman were slated to begin. The first meeting was being held tonight at Ridge Road Elementary School, followed by Clintonville on April 15, Green Acres on April 28, and Montowese on April 29. Each presentation will be from 6-7 pm and members of the public are encouraged to attend.

At the last Board of Education meeting there was a suggestion to hold an additional presentation at either the library or the senior center during daytime hours for anyone interested in learning about the project. NHTV is also willing to tape the library presentation. There was also a suggestion to advertise these presentations through the PTA Council.

Michelle Spader commented that she will be putting the upcoming dates of the presentations in The Advisor and The North Haven Citizen. They have also been posted on the project website the project Facebook page as well as the Facebook pages of various PTA's and two North Haven Community Forum pages. Spader also asked Dr. Cronin to utilize the "all call" to remind parents of each of the presentations. Dr. Cronin agreed to make the calls.

There was discussion about what should be included in the brochure the committee is hoping to distribute to taxpayers prior to the June vote on the middle school project. Mr. Piazza had several potential brochure questions that he needed the committee to answer. Dyann Vissicchio said she would work on the answers and then present what she wrote to the committee for discussion at a future meeting.

New Business –

Perkins Eastman shared the slides they will be presenting to the public during the elementary school presentations. The committee offered suggestions on changes and additions they would like to have made to the slides prior to this evening's first presentation.

Perkins Eastman provided cost estimates for the various items on the 'Athletic Program Request List'. Preliminarily, the cost was over \$5.5 million. The proposed items must be voted on by the Board of Education to determine which items, if any, will be included in the Ed Specs and in the EDO 49. Any such project additions will require the Board of Education to make revisions to the current Ed Specs. Kristine Carling asked for assistance in preparing the narrative regarding the field requests in order to provide the Board of Education with a draft copy of the proposed changes to the Ed Specs. David Mikos and Joseph Porto offered to assist Carling with drafting the narrative.

Miriam Brody questioned whether or not this \$5.5 million is in addition to the \$2 million dollars that is already in the project under site construction. It is in addition, but that \$2 million figure includes grass fields (not turf), construction of parking lots and the bus queue.

Mikos asked when it would be possible for the Board of Education to review the draft Ed Specs. Anita Anderson said she would have a special meeting of the Board of Education scheduled before April 28. She proposed April 21 and 23 and said she would need to see which of those 2 dates would work best for the board members. Anderson questioned how much of this additional \$5.5 million for field enhancements is reimbursable. Attorney Donofrio said that eligible components would be reimbursable at half the project rate that we receive from the state. For example, if the state deems our project 38% reimbursable, the eligible fields would only be reimbursed at a rate of 19%. However, Donofrio also advised that several of the items on the list were not reimbursable at all.

Using theatre and band as examples, Michael Brandt expressed concern that other special interest groups (besides sports) were going to have their needs met with what is currently included in the Ed Specs and in our plans for design. Brandt wanted to make sure things such as the stage, band room, and science labs are going to be appropriate to suit the needs of those departments. Mr. Piazza stated that all department heads have had opportunities to comment on their needs and that the floor plans and square footage of those areas has been shared with them. The committee asked Piazza to ensure that the information is shared within each of the departments as well. Piazza said he will double check to ensure all departments feel their needs are being met with the proposed design plans.

There was a motion to adjourn at 9:30 am by Bruce Morris, seconded by Dyann Vissicchio and unanimously passed.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle Spader
Committee Secretary